



**The Cathedral**  
**of the**  
**Diocese of Pennsylvania**



# The Cathedral of the Diocese of Pennsylvania

W. ELLIS SCULL, Registrar

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE of the Cathedral of the Diocese at Roxborough in conjunction with Frank R. Watson, Architect of Philadelphia, and Philip Hubert Frohman, Architect of the Washington Cathedral, have been studying critically for a long time the model of the Cathedral with the large group of buildings around it left to the Chapter by Bishop Garland, and have come to the conclusion that it is too pretentious an undertaking for the Diocese at the present time.

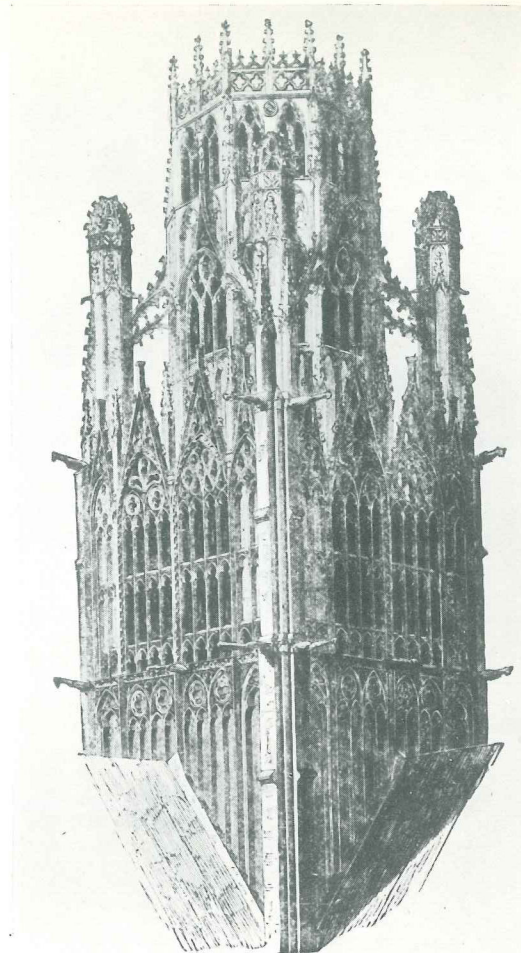
The tower in the middle at the eastern end of the Choir is not only too large but out of place.

Mr. Watson and Mr. Frohman both agree with the proposal of Rev. James M. Niblo—"that by completing the Lady Chapel and using it as the choir and by building the carillon lantern and transepts together with the future choir which would be used as a nave, possibly for years to come, we would have a Cathedral which would be practical and economical in proportion to its seating capacity as well as beautiful internally and externally at every stage of its construction."

Herewith is submitted a sketch in perspective of a complete smaller cathedral, but in place of the large tower is an octagonal lantern large enough for a carillon, requiring 63,000 cubic feet. In the square of the tower below the lantern on the plan would be the key-board for the carillon, and windows to let light into the nave to the west below. The lantern on this plan is 40 feet lower than the tower of the model.

Mrs. Schuyler VanRensselaer, who is considered in America an exceedingly good authority on architecture, writing about the center crossing in Ely Cathedral says, "it is an octagonal lantern formed of white traceried windows. In widening out his crossing, Allan found the best way to treat the center of a large interior. The boldness of his device is appreciated when we find that his work is often called the only true Gothic dome in existence and that it deserves that praise. His own brain must have conceived the addition of the lantern as well as the great fundamental idea of placing the octagon and lantern above the center of a mighty church. A man who could design like this was a great architect in the truest sense of the term.

"Why, we may wonder, did not Allan's octagon find imitators; Allan of Walsingham was born too late! No great church was founded in England after the 14th century; and though many were altered, no old towers fell to give new men a chance to rebuild them in a novel way. Such a scheme as Allan's could not have been conceived in the Norman period; it is too thoroughly Gothic in name and feeling.



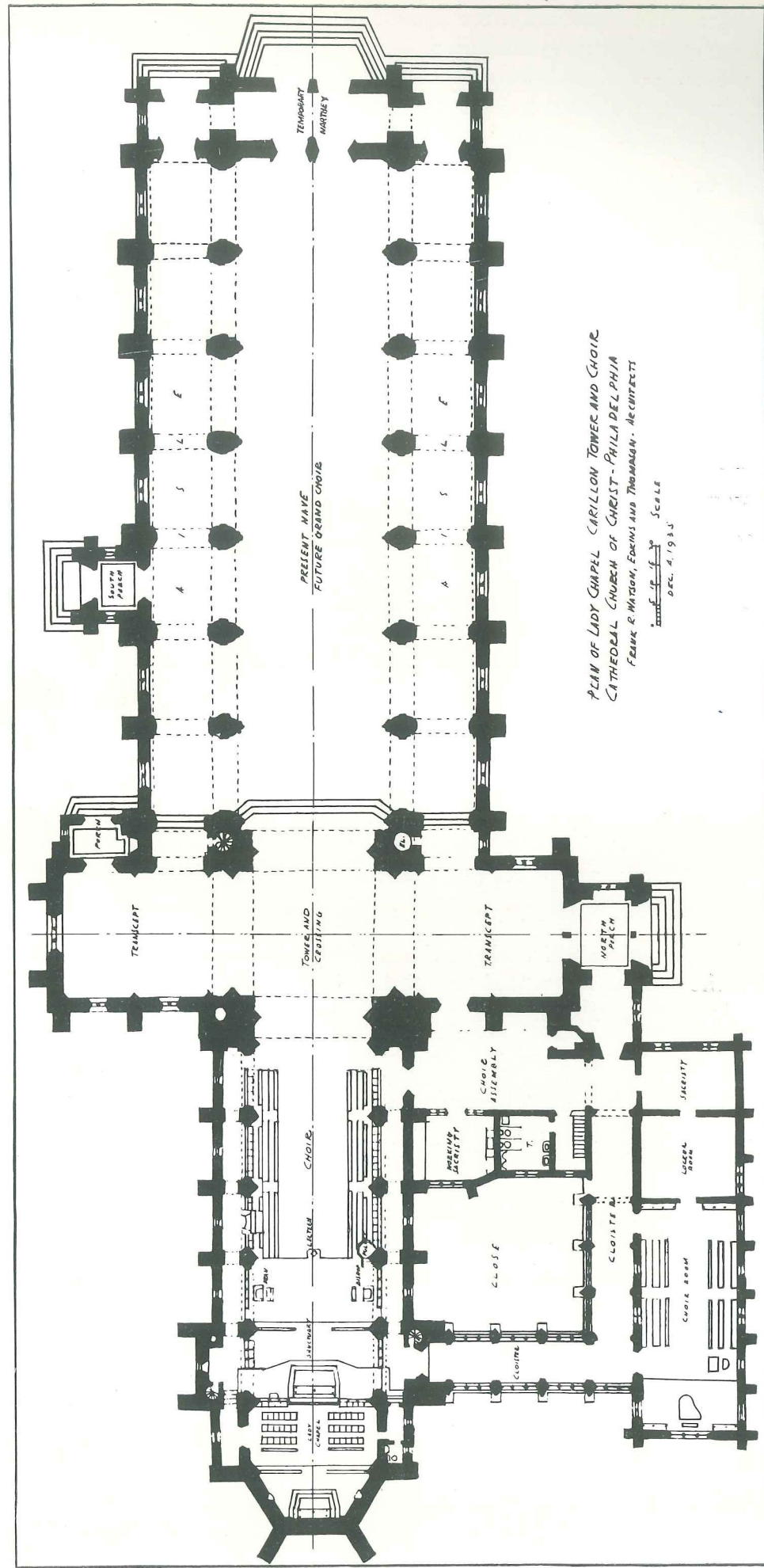
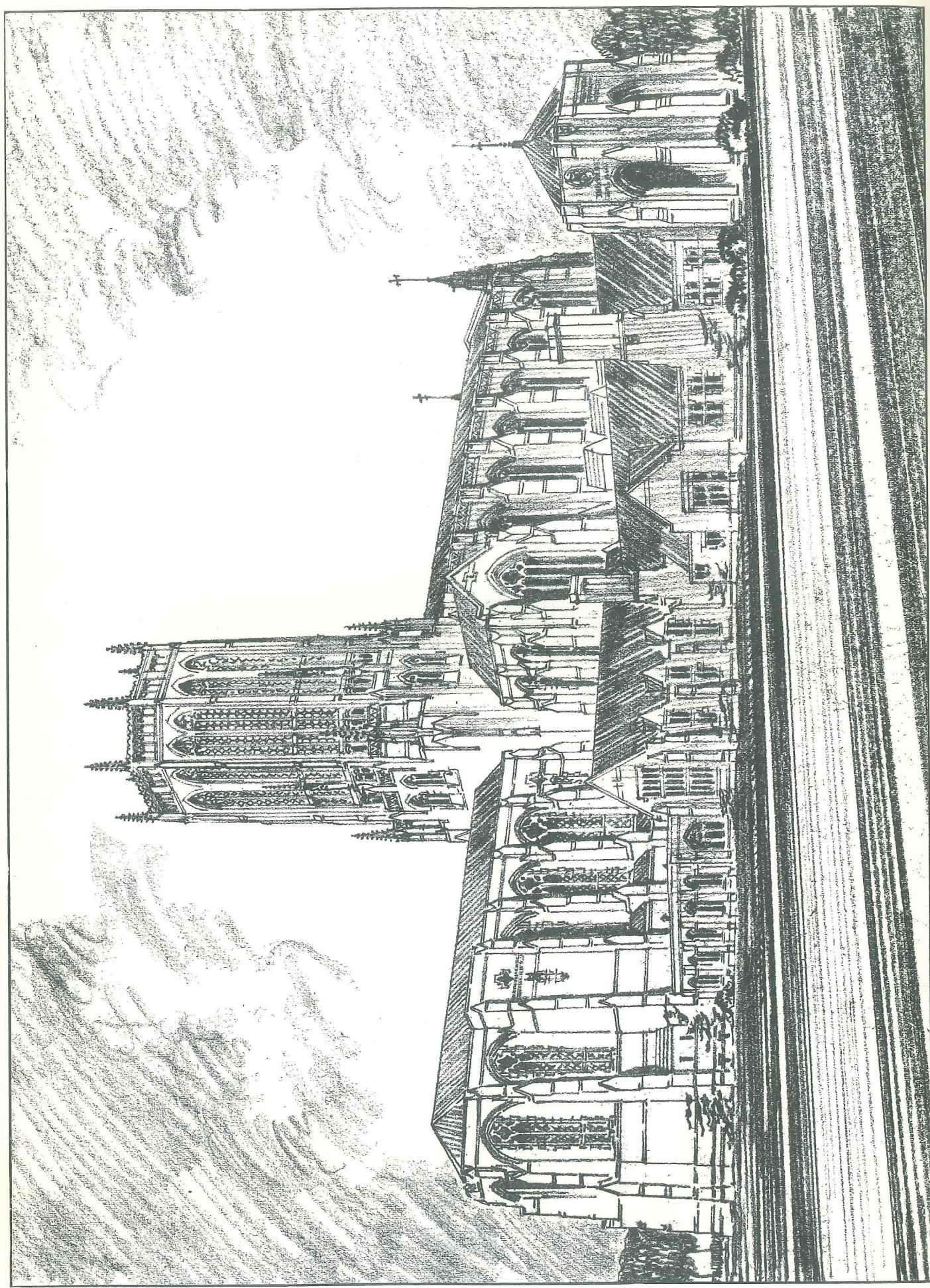
*The Lantern on  
St. Ouen Cathedral  
Rouen*

"No central tower at Ely could have grouped well with the single western tower while from every point of view the single western tower contrasts harmoniously with Allan's octagon. The bulk and richness of the octagon keep it from being dwarfed by the height of the tower, and yet, on the other hand, they do not unduly dwarf the tower—the two are so alike in dignity yet so unlike in character that neither the mind nor the eye feels any clashing of claims. I do not mean by all this that an octagon like Allan's could not be well grouped with anything except a single tower—the famous church of St. Ouen at Rouen in Normandy suffices to show that this might have been admirably combined with a western pair. I only mean that a single western tower could not group so well with anything but this octagon; that a church with such a tower needs, as no other church can, just such a central feature as the one which Allan built."

A complete carillon has been offered to the Chapter if a tower is built within a limited time in which to place it. For a carillon the lantern would be made rather light and rich in design, important enough to give a good deal of character to the small size cathedral and would in no way interfere with the development in the future of a great central tower of a large cathedral, either architecturally or acoustically.

Should there be built a great center tower, the carillon would most likely be removed to it and the lantern now proposed would not in any way interfere with the sound—"towers were originally introduced in Christian edifices partly as bell towers, partly as symbols of power"—and—"that the great central church for worship might be seen and heard from a distance." The site is the highest point in the City of Philadelphia and the present small building can be seen at Gladwyn near Bryn Mawr. A lantern with a carillon in it, built by John Taylor Bell Foundry Co., of Loughborough, England, who constructed one for Mr. Bok for the tower on his Bird Sanctuary in Florida, would be a feature unequalled in beauty by any church in America.





# PROPOSED GROUND PLAN

On the ground plan is a suggestion for a small quadrangle and around it grouped vestry rooms, sacristy, choir quarters, etc. On the sketch are shown buildings not represented on this revised plan.



It would be practical and advantageous to build the upper structure, i.e., the square of the tower and lantern, but from the ground up to the square only the four piers of the crossing. It is thought that the carillon would draw people to the services, and that the four unfinished bays between the Lady Chapel and the tower would suggest opportunities to build as memorials. A temporary pulpit could be erected under the tower.

The Chapter adopted the accompanying simplified plan for a present-day Cathedral, a sketch of which was made by Mr. Frank R. Watson, December, 1935, for Mr. W. Ellis Scull.

The accompanying plan of the Diocese of Pennsylvania shows the location of the property to be about the center of population of Church members of the Diocese and well within the physical center. According to the data in the *Journal*, the number of baptised persons in each Convocation is as follows:

Chester.....	21,568
Germantown.....	22,645
Norristown.....	11,154
Philadelphia.....	52,736
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Total.....	108,103

From these figures it would seem that the Cathedral Site is certainly very nearly the center of the Diocese. As for the Metropolitan District, which takes in part of Camden, the center lies approximately at the Queen Lane Reservoir, which is also not very far from the Cathedral Site.

When the Henry Boulevard from Germantown, and the Chestnut Hill-Ardmore Boulevard will have been opened to Cathedral Place, there will be, with Ridge Avenue running east and west, five highways for auto cars and motor buses leading to the site with large accommodations for parking spaces.

The Cathedral in England has often been the nucleus around which towns have grown; the neighborhood of the Cathedral at Roxborough has in the last few years grown and there has developed a definitely better class of houses built in the vicinity.

Hugh Walpole wrote: "I have lived nearly all my life in the Cathedral towns—Truro, Canterbury, Durham, Edinburgh—I shall never be free of them now in body, mind or spirit. I do not imply by this that I wish to be, for they have been to me, perhaps, the truest and most friendly influences that I have had. What I mind is that, when you feel because of early circumstances and later inclinations something strongly and powerfully in your system, it is difficult to realize how 'that something' appears to the people who have never been intimately with it." Walpole goes on to say: "people are discovering the Cathedral anew. The wonderful fact concerning them is that they have the power of indefinite patience. They have been dedicated to something greater and more permanent than temporary fashions in creed or anti-creed. They are aware that both truth and poetry are their foundations and so they can wait forever."

The renowned Quaker philosopher and preacher, Rufus M. Jones, of Haverford College, where Dean Inge expressed a wish to visit him in his small shingled cottage, wrote in the "Trail of Life," "God is more real and seems to be nearer where beauty flourishes. My visit to Yorkminster was one of my greatest experiences in England. Cathedrals had appealed in advance to my imagination more than any other 'creations of genius.' Lowell's 'Cathedral'

and Whittier's description in 'Tauler' of the Gothic miracle at Strasbourg, had cast a spell over me, and I was ready to rise to the full height of joy and appreciation."

The Cathedral property of seventy acres offers an opportunity where Church institutions in lower Philadelphia may move to when they find their old location in a changing neighborhood has left them misplaced for their usefulness or lack of convenience for their work. It has been stated by individuals that they would like to live in the precincts of the Cathedral.

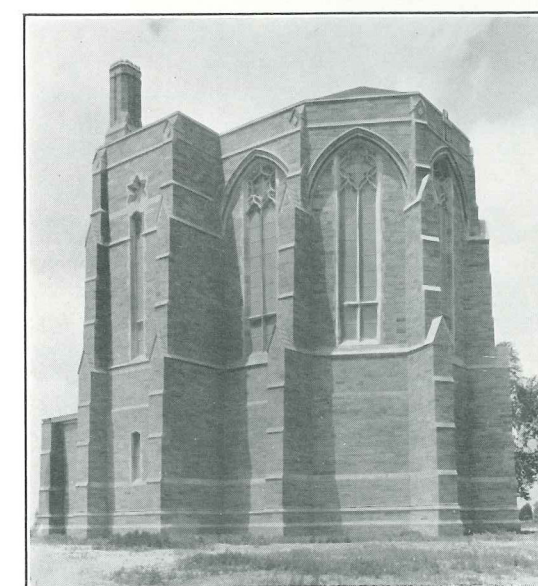
Following is a list of portions of the first structure which the Chapter has authorized members to offer to individuals, families or societies as memorials at the following prices at the present time:

Foundations of Carillon Tower to grade including vaulted Crypt and mortuary space.....	\$50,000
Tower from grade to 2'0" above arches of crossing, each corner \$15,000...	60,000
Completion of Lantern.....	140,000
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One side of Lady Chapel Bay.....	17,500
Complete Bay of Lady Chapel.....	35,000

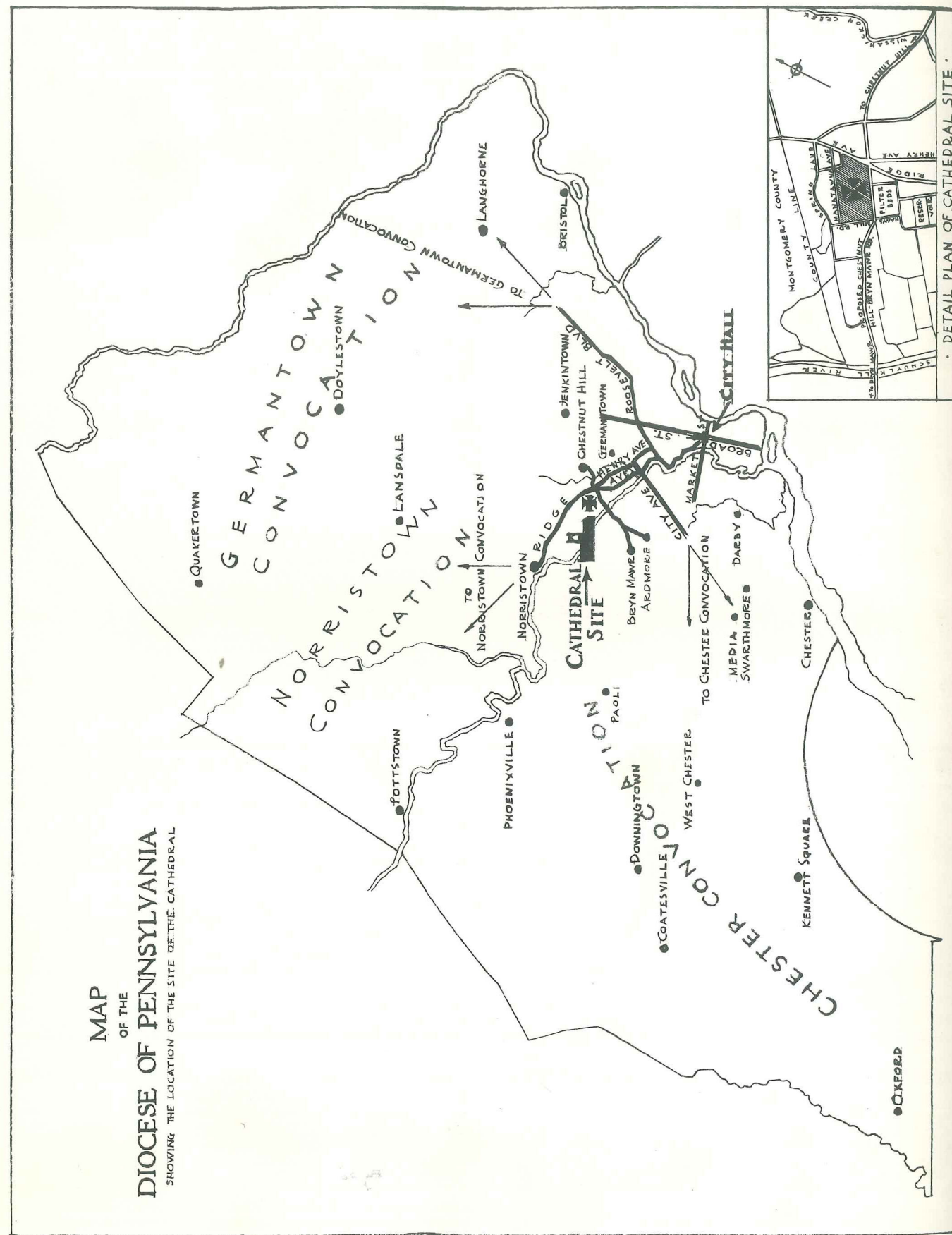
It is fortunate that on the Cathedral site there is solid rock little below the surface of the ground which assures an everlasting foundation at a minimum cost.

Even though having regard for the ancient architectural elegancies, there has been developed in America a definite typical style in the new churches which often is and should be a simplicity of surface with good lines, character, and beauty, giving to an edifice certain rich features, a porch, a facade or a tower as is the case with Canterbury Cathedral.

It is the earnest desire, however, of the Chapter to acquire primarily an endowment fund, the income from which would be used for the spirit of the Cathedral FOUNDATION, that is, the group of clergy working for the Diocese and that the spirit would eventually be sufficiently good and strong to call for the body which is the Cathedral CHURCH.



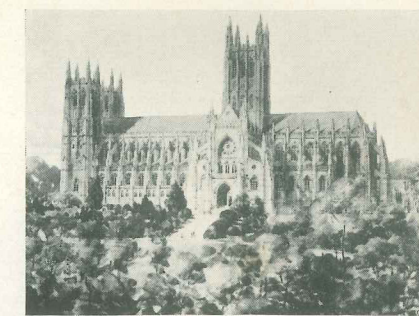




NEW YORK



BALTIMORE

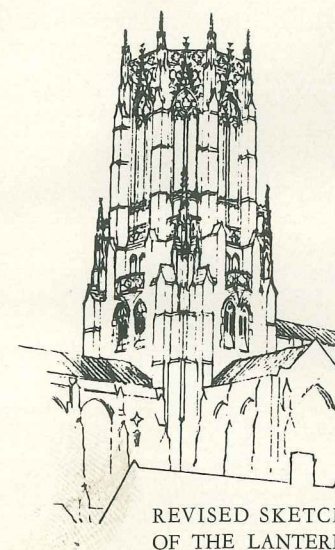


WASHINGTON

## Our Cathedral

W. ELLIS SCULL, Registrar

To Fellow Members of The Diocese of Pennsylvania



REVISED SKETCH  
OF THE LANTERN

A Cathedral or Bishop's Church is a chartered organization managed by a Chapter, consisting of clergy and laymen, serving without compensation, to assist and advise the Bishop in the physical and financial management of his Church, the Cathedral, or in Diocesan work, and a Spiritual Centre of the Diocese. The members of the Chapter are nominated by the Bishop, confirmed by the

Standing Committee, and elected by the Convention.

The most vital part of the Cathedral organization is a group consisting of Bishop, Dean and Canons, to do spiritual work about the Diocese, holding services in the Cathedral, inviting eminent preachers to speak in the Cathedral, etc.

A Cathedral is not a Parish Church, does no parochial work, and sends no delegates to the Convention. The clerical canons, freed from parochial work, have greater opportunity to study, a much needed feature.

The beginning of any Cathedral, as the one for the Diocese of Pennsylvania, presents difficulties and is subject to misunderstandings and criticism, the progress is dependent upon the field developed by individually inspired churchmen of the Diocese. In the case of our Cathedral a beginning was made when a large bequest was made for a Memorial Lady Chapel, and the Cathedral is also the residuary legatee of the same estate. The Chapter gladly accepted the offer and thus made a step forward.

The Journal of the Convention includes the current financial statement of our Cathedral but, of course, without reference to the Cathedral being ultimately the beneficiary of a large estate.

The only appeal made by the Cathedral for money was years ago, for small amounts, through the Cathedral League, of which Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer was President. A recent appeal, made by the Bishop, owing to the many other drives at the time, and possibly because of the appeal of the Washington Cathedral, met with small response. Do the Washington, New York, Baltimore or Trenton Cathedrals adequately serve Philadelphia's needs? "Pennsylvania" days in the Cathedral in Washington with flag and banner are to be commended, but why not "Pennsylvania" day on the Cathedral property of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in Roxborough with our National Flag and our Diocesan banner, presented the Cathedral by the Colonial Dames, also Colonial Dames services and Cathedral League services. On former Diocesan Days on our own site, with merely an open-air service, there was an attendance of 1,000, more or less, sometimes including parents and children on a pilgrimage to property in which they considered themselves part owners.

A Cathedral is a democratic institution.

If each communicant of the Diocese would subscribe one dollar or more to the Cathedral League, the Cathedral could have a much more active influence. The income would stop the present annual deficit, and it would be possible to pay the salary of a resident on the property in the centre of the Diocese, who could not only conduct the services there, but do other Diocesan duties. The Chapter will welcome a request from anyone who desires to enroll as a member of the Cathedral League. Send your name and address to L. B. Runk, Treasurer, 1632 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.